

restoration of conscription involving an increase of the Reichswehr to thirty-six divisions and about 550,000 men. It had passed the treaty limit of 100,000 before the Nazi revolution, but no one had expected such a colossal jump. That Germany would sooner or later recover her strength, as France had renewed herself after Sedan, was an axiom. Great Powers cannot be kept down for very long, and the more they are trampled on the more vigorous will be their rebound. Since it was also revealed by Goring on March 10 that Germany had within the last year created a formidable air force, and the intention was announced to build submarines and enlarge the navy, it was realized that she was on her legs again. Sir John Simon returned from his visit to Berlin on March 24-25 with increased apprehension, and confessed to Parliament that "considerable divergence of opinion" was revealed. In addition to a conscript army Hitler contemplated a navy 35 per cent, of our own, and air parity between Germany, England and France.

The three Western Powers drew closer together in alarm, and on April 9th it was announced that France and Russia were about to sign a mutual assistance pact. France demanded a special meeting of the League Council. Germany had recovered her strength : what use would she make of it ? She had broken the military clauses of the Treaty of Versailles : which would she break next ? The purpose of the Stresa meeting, April 11-14, attended by England, France and Italy, was to prepare the ground for the Council. The breach of the treaty was condemned and it was resolved to register a formal rebuke at Geneva. The second main topic was the independence of Austria, which had been so nearly overthrown on July 25, 1934, when Dollfuss was murdered by Austrian Nazis. No military guarantee was undertaken,

but the three
Powers reiterated their attachment to the
principle of Austrian
independence. "The three Powers," ran the
Final Declara-
tion, "the object of whose policy is the collective
maintenance
of peace within the framework of the League of
Nations, find
themselves in complete agreement in opposing by
all practic-
able means any unilateral repudiation of treaties
which may
endanger the peace of Europe, and will act in
close and cordial
collaboration for this purpose." Here was the
charter of the
Stresa front. A few days later the Council of
the League
solemnly censured the German Government,
Denmark alone
abstaining; but no further action was taken,
and Germany